

Lesson 23

Seven Visions, Seven Plagues, Seven Bowls: Chapters 14-16

STUDY GUIDE

These chapters contain two sets of visions, one set in Chapter 14 and one in Chapter 15-16. In Chapter 14 there are series of seven visions. Read 14:1, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 17. Give a title for each of these visions, which will summarize it. Read vs. 1-5 for the first one. Who is the first one seen? Who is with Him? List all descriptions that are given of this group. Do you see any contrast between this vision, and what we saw in Chapter 13?

Study through each of the other visions, summarizing each with a phrase and listing any outstanding facts. After you have gone through these, see if you can recall the main idea of each of these visions.

In Chapters 15-16, we have the vision of the Seven Bowls, the first of these chapters being an introduction to the actual pouring out of the bowls. What two general things are given about these plagues in vs.1? Read vs. 2-8 in which the stage is set for the administration of the plagues. What group is seen in this introduction? Does this help in understanding when these plagues will come? In verses 5-8, the plagues are prepared. What is in the bowls? Where else in the Revelation have you found reference to this?

Study through Chapter 16 as we did for the seals and the trumpets. Make a list of seven bowls and for each one, indicate what is the nature of the plague upon who it is to fall and with what effect. Are the first four alike (as in the seals and trumpets)? Do you see any parallel between these and the trumpets?

Notice carefully the fifth and sixth bowls. On whom is the fifth plague poured? What great event is pictured under the sixth bowl? In this connection read Joel 3:2, 9, 17; Zeph. 3:8; and Zech. 12:3, 9; 14:1-4.

What is the seventh bowl? How do you think the seven bowls fit in with the seven seals and with the seven trumpets?

NOTES

Seven visions of the end time — Chapter 14

1. We see first the Lamb, which is Jesus with the 144,000 who were sealed. These 144,000 have been purchased from the earth and are singing a new song, which no one else can learn. These are pure and are the first fruits of those purchased from the earth. These are the people of Israel because they were the first fruits. (Rev.14:1-5). It is significant to note that Jesus comes standing on a mountain whereas the beast of chapter 13 came on the seashore.
2. We see an angel proclaiming a last appeal to give glory to God for judgment is at hand. (Rev.14:6-7)
3. This vision is a prelude to chapter 17 where this picture is revealed in greater detail (Babylon fallen). (Rev.14:8)
4. A great warning is issued to anyone who might receive the mark of the beast that they will be thrown into the eternal lake of fire. This picture closes with, "Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandment of God and their faith in Jesus." (Rev.14:9-12)
5. A voice proclaims a blessing for the dead in Christ for they may rest from their labors and their deeds follow them. (Rev.14:13)

6. This is the time of the harvest of those who are of Christ. We see in 1 Thess. 4:16-17 that the dead in Christ rise first which was seen here in verse 13. Then those who are alive are caught up with them in the clouds, which we see in this sixth vision. (Rev.14:14-16)
7. And then the judgment on those who are not in Christ. (Rev. 14:17-20)

Seven Plagues in the Seven Bowls — Chapters 15 & 16

In chapters 15-16, we have the vision of the Seven Bowls, the first of these chapters being an introduction to the actual pouring of the bowls. In this, we see the sixth trumpet magnified or the wrath of God as we see in the first verse of chapter 15. This is the last of His wrath. In verses 2-4, we see the saints of God in heaven who endured (14:12). In verses 5-8, the bowls are prepared. These bowls contain the wrath of God, as we see in these verses. Perhaps more clearly defined in 14:10, “he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”

(See chart comparing visions of sevens)

Again, in the vision of seven, we see a division between the first four, the next two, and then the last. The first four deal with nature, then the fifth is poured directly on the throne of the beast, the Euphrates is dried up and the kings from the east prepare to war against God, then in the seventh there is a great turmoil in nature that ends it all. In connection with the sixth bowl see Joel 3:2; 9:17; Zeph. 3:8; and Zech. 12:3,9; 1:1-4.

We note that the seventh in each vision of seven denotes the end with the 30 minutes of silence, the kingdom of earth has become the Kingdom of God, and then 16:17, “...it is done.”

The Final Judgment: Chapters 17 and 18

STUDY GUIDE

1. We have seen before that Satan’s plan is to imitate God, and it is possible that in these two characters we have another point at which he works his imitation. What is Christ to have according to Rev.9:7? (See Eph. 5: 31, 32) Could it be that Satan will have one for this man? What is he called in 17: 1-2?
2. Now read 17:3-6 carefully for the description of this woman. What is her relationship to the beast? Notice the descriptions that are given here of the beast. Is this one like the one of Chapter 13? Does it seem to be the same one? Now list the descriptions of the woman in vs. 4-6.
3. Verses 7-15 give the interpretations of these facts. List the facts that are chosen for interpretation and beside each one put the interpretation that is given. What is added about the beast in vs. 8 (cf 13: 3)? Now notice carefully what happens to the woman in vs. 16-17.
4. Chapter 18 tells of the fall of the woman, Babylon. What two references have been made already in the book to this? Read 18: 1-3 for the introduction of this idea. Why is she to be judged? What is the call given to the people of God? The judgment is given in vs. 6-8. What is the response (vs. 9-20)
5. Now read vs. 21-24 for the final picture of the judgment of “Babylon.” How does he illustrate it? (See Jer. 51: 63-34.) Is it the literal nation of Babylon? Note Isaiah 13:19, 20.
6. What do you think this woman represents? If the “bride” of Christ is the true church, what would you think the harlot would be? Could this have anything to do with what is referred to in 2 Thess. 2:3 and 1 Tim. 4 :1-2?

NOTES

The Judgment of the Harlot — Chapters 17

We have seen before that Satan's plan is to imitate God, and it is possible that in these two chapters we have another point at which he works his imitation. We see in Revelation 19:7, "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready." It would seem appropriate for Satan to also copy this by having instead a harlot as described in 17:2, "with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

v.3 – the harlot riding on a scarlet beast which would appear to be the beast of ch.13

v.4 – arrayed in purple and scarlet, decked with gold, precious stones and pearls, holds a cup full of abominations.

v.5 – She has a name written on her forehead, "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth".

v.6 – the woman is drunk with the blood of the martyred saints, and the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.

Verses 8 -15 give the interpretation of these facts:

v.8 – the beast was, is not, and is about to come out of the abyss, and go into perdition. (see 13:3)

v.9 – the seven heads (symbol) are seven mountains (metaphor) on which the woman sits;

v.10 – they are seven kings, five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; when he comes he will remain a little while

v.11 – the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

v.12 – the ten horns are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.

v.13 – these (ten kings) have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast.

v.14 – these will wage war against the Lamb (see 16:12-16)

v.15 – the waters where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues

v.16 – the tens horns will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

v.17 – Verse 16 brings in a change, which as it were, is of God as verse 17 says, "For God has put in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled". Even as Satan is seeing himself glorified and everything going according to his plan to defeat God, He, as if Satan's back is turned, slips in a plan of His own.

v.18 – the woman is the great city, which reins over the kings of the earth

The Fall of Babylon and the funeral dirge of the Harlot — Chapter 18

There have been two previous seeds dealing with the fall of the woman, Rev.14:8 & 16:19. She tastes of the wrath of God for her having been a dwelling place of every of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

We hear a voice calling from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled high as heaven, and God has remembered her

iniquities." The people cried and lamented woe as the great city burned. (18:9-20)

We come to a difficult problem in deciding the position of the harlot called the city of Babylon or compared to the city of Babylon. Is this a literal city or symbolic or both? If we look ahead, we see a reference in 21:2 of Jerusalem being the bride of Christ. Rev. 19:7 talks of the bride made ready and verse 9 speaks of blessed are those invited to the wedding feast. Is this then the Jews, which represent the bride, the long ago chosen people of God? The word of God went out to the Jew first and then to the Gentile. Does this separation continue? We saw those in heaven in contrast to the Jews on earth sealed from God's wrath. Is this God's greater plan for the Jews? We shall see.

By this, we can then see that Babylon is the bride of Satan, a religious organization to give glory to him.

	SEVEN SEALS	SEVEN TRUMPETS	7 BOWLS OF WRATH
1	WHITE HORSE BOW ANTI CHRIST'S CROWN CONQUERING & TO CONQUER	1/3 OF THE EARTH BURNT 1/3 OF THE TREES BURNT AND ALL THE GRASS	LOATHSOME MALIGNANT SORE ON THOSE W/ THE MARK OF THE BEAST
2	RED HORSE WAR TAKE PEACE FROM THE EARTH MEN SLAYING ONE ANOTHER PEACE TAKEN FROM EARTH	GREAT MOUNTAIN THROWN INTO THE OCEAN 1/3 BECAME BLOOD 1/3 CREATURES IN THE SEA DIE 1/3 OF THE SHIPS DESTROYED	EVERY LIVING THING IN THE SEA DEAD
3	BLACK HORSE INFLATION FAMINE	GREAT STAR FROM HEAVEN FALLS ON 1/3 OF ALL STREAMS & RIVERS & SPRINGS OF WATER STAR = WORMWOOD MEN DIE FROM BETTER WATERS	RIVERS AND SPRINGS BECOME ALL BLOOD
4	PALE HORSE DEATH DEATH W/HADES FOLLOWING AUTHORITY OVER 1/4 EARTH KILLING WITH SWORD FAMINE & WILD BEAST	1/3 OF SUN & MOON SMITTEN 1/3 OF STARS 1/3 OF DAY DOES NOT SHINE SAME FOR NIGHT	SUN SCORCHES MEN WITH FIRE THEY BLASPHEME GOD AND DO NOT REPENT
5	UNDERNEATH THE ALTAR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN SLAIN BECAUSE OF THEIR TESTIMONY MARTYRS	STAR FALLEN TO EARTH GIVEN THE KEY TO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT - LOCUST FROM THE PIT WITH POWER BUT THEY CAN ONLY HARM THOSE W/O THE SEAL. FIRST WOE	POURED ON THE THRONE OF THE BEAST - KINGDOM BECAME DARK AND THEY GNAWED AT THEIR TONGUE IN PAIN
6	GREAT EARTHQUAKE SUN TURNS BLACK & MOON RED - STARS FALLING TO EARTH NATURAL DISASTERS 144,000 SEALED	RELEASE 4 ANGELS AT EUPHRATES RIVER - PREPARED FOR THE HOUR, DAY, MONTH, AND YEAR 1/3 MANKIND IS KILLED 200,000,000 HORSEMEN 2ND WOE (ANGEL W/ 7 PEELS OF THUNDER) TWO WITNESSES	WATER OF EUFRATES DRIED UP FOR THE KINGS FROM THE EAST. KINGS OF THE WHOLE EARTH PREPARE TO WAR AGAINST GOD
7	SILENCE IN HEAVEN FOR HALF AN HOUR SEVEN TRUMPETS OF GOD'S WRATH ON EARTH	THE KINGDOM OF THE WORLD HAS BECOME THE KINGDOM OF OUR LORD 10:15 24 ELDERS WORSHIP CHRIST	GREAT EARTHQUAKE SUCH AS THERE NEVER HAS BEEN - 100 LB. HAILSTONES